THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government of India approved the expansion of the operations of the Visa Collection Center in Chandigarh of the Canadian High Commission to a full consulate in September 2001, on the basis of a request by the Government of Canada.

(d) Following this approval, the Canadian High Commission has informed Government that the strength of the Canadian Consulate would be augmented by one or two Canadian High Commission officers for one week each month with the purpose of conducting immigrant selection interviews.

Use of Nuclear Weapons by Pakistan against India

5330. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Pakistan President about the use of nuclear weapons against India in the event of possible war between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government has seen reports to this effect, as reported in 'Der Spiegel' and reflected subsequently in our print media. Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme. It remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

Military cooperation with NATO

†5331. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed or offer has been made for military cooperation with NATO;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof;

(c) whether it is not a diversion from the non-alignment policy of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. The three services have neither reached any agreement with the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) nor do they propose to do so.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Meeting of Indo-China Joint Working Group in Terrorism

5332. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Working Group of India and China had met to deliberate upon counter terrorism measures;

(b) if so, the scope and framework of the dialogue;

(c) whether Pak cross-border terrorism also figured in the talks; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The first meeting of the annual India-China dialogue mechanism on counter terrorism was held in New Delhi on 23 April, 2002. Both sides shared their national experiences on dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism, exchanged views on the international counter terrorism situation including developments in the region, cooperation at the United Nations and possibilities of bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed that the first meeting of the dialogue mechanism was useful in enhancing mutual understanding. The next round is expected to be held in Beijing early next year.

Educated unemployed youth in M.P.

5333. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth registered in various employment exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;